

ACTION L-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	INL-00	DODE-00	PERC-00
	DS-00	EAP-00	EUR-00	FBIE-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00
	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	NIMA-00	SCT-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	STPD-00	NCTC-00	ASDS-00	CBP-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
	DRL-00	G-00	CARC-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	/000W

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9269

INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

FRG COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHDC PRIORITY

DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY

DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 001740

STATE FOR L AND EUR/AGS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/13/2017

TAGS: PREL, PTER, PGOV, GM

SUBJECT: BUNDESTAG INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE

RECONVENES WITH FULL AGENDA AHEAD

REF: BERLIN 164

Classified By: DCM John Koenig for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

SUMMARY

1. (C) On September 13 the Bundestag's Committee of Inquiry will meet again following the summer recess and continue the process of questioning individuals concerning the activities of German intelligence and security agencies relating to the Iraq war, the alleged abduction and transport of terrorism suspects via German territory on secret flights, and related issues. The next sessions will conclude interviews from witnesses concerning the circumstances surrounding the abduction and transfer to Guantanamo of Murat Kurnaz followed by the cases of terrorism suspects Khaled El-Masri, Muhammad Haydar Zammar, and Abdul H. Khafagy.

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The committee will subsequently take up the issues of the cooperation of German intelligence officials based in Baghdad in early 2003 with US agencies, and, lastly, the allegations that German intelligence agencies monitored and investigated journalists as well as exerted influence on media reporting.

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For this reason, as well as fact that there is still much of the committee's mandate to complete, it is expected that the committee will continue through the end of the legislative period (i.e., until the next federal elections in fall 2009).

End Summary

Origins and Mandate of the Committee of Inquiry

3. (U) The Bundestag Committee of Inquiry was established in April 2006 following the 20 February 2006 release of a government report presented to the Bundestag's Parliamentary Control Panel titled: "On events relating to the Iraq War and combating international terrorism." (Note: The German-language report is available online at www.bundestag.de/aktuell/archiv/2006/pkgr/irak/bericht_breg_offen.pdf.) The committee was established in order to clarify unresolved questions related to the report as well as to make assessments and conclusions concerning the activities described. In particular, the committee is to clarify what political directions were given for the actions of the Federal Intelligence Service (BND), Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), Federal Armed Forces Counterintelligence Office (MAD), Federal Prosecutor General (GBA) and Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) in connection with the events described in the report and how political leadership and oversight were provided and ensured.

4. (U) The events to be examined by the committee include the overall issue of "CIA flights and the (secret) prisons for terror suspects operated by American agencies," and the

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arrests and alleged abductions of German citizens or residents including Murat Kurnaz, Abdul H. Khafagy, Khaled El-Masri and Muhammad Haydar Zammar. The actions of two BND officers posted to Baghdad in early 2003 are under examination and specifically whether information they obtained concerning the Iraqi military's plan for the defense of Baghdad was relayed to US authorities. Finally, the committee will take up the issue of who within the Federal Chancellery, and at senior levels of the intelligence service, knew that the BND was monitoring and investigating journalists as well as exerting influence on media reporting.

(Note: The mandate for the committee is available online in English at www.bundestag.de/aussschuesse/ua/1_ua/auftrag/auftrag_erweiter_eng.pdf)

Progress to Date

5. (U) The committee has held over 50 sessions since it began its work a year and a half ago. Witnesses called before the committee have included former Interior Minister Schily, former FM Fischer, current FM Steinmeier and the current and former heads of the various intelligence and security services. Senior Chancellery officials, Defense Ministry representatives and even the former DCM at the German embassy in Washington DC have been called to testify. Many of the sessions are open to the public and summary reports are available on the Bundestag's website.

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Special Investigator Joachim Jacob

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